



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, Ca. 94105-3901

August 31, 1992

Mr. Robert Ivey  
Contracting Officer  
United States Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 2567  
Grand Junction, CO 81502

RE: Response Action concerning DOE Mining Lease AT905-1-ML-60.8-  
NM-B-1, Bluewater Uranium Mine Site.

Dear Mr. Ivey:

As discussed in our latest telephone conversation, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Navajo Nation are concerned over the long delay by the Department of Energy (DOE) in conducting the necessary response actions at the DOE lease outside of Prewitt, New Mexico.

EPA is well aware of the outstanding legal complications resulting from the cancellation of Mr. George Warnock's lease. However, EPA was under the impression that this case was going to be resolved back in July. EPA, the Navajo Nation and the citizens living around the mine site have been patiently awaiting a decision by the DOE contract board for several months.

Since the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Health Advisory was issued in November of 1990, EPA has been willing to assist the DOE in providing technical, contractual, and field oversight assistance. A draft Interagency Agreement was submitted to DOE for review and comments back in February of 1992. To date, EPA has yet to receive any comments or feedback from DOE concerning the proposed IAG and clean up action.

EPA is still willing to assist DOE in conducting the necessary actions at the site to ensure the adequate protection of public health and the environment. EPA is hoping that the DOE will be able to perform the necessary actions within this fiscal year. EPA is hoping that the response action can be performed before the end of this fiscal year and is willing to assist the effort. However, without immediate action by DOE to formalize the IAG and commit to funding the project, the response is in jeopardy as a result of impending foul Fall weather. EPA is expecting DOE to immediately respond to this letter and inform the Agency on its decision in regards to responding to the site.

If you have any technical questions please contact me at 415-744-2298 or 602-871-6284. Legal questions should be directed to Linda Wandres, Assistant Regional Counsel for Indian Affairs at 415-744-1359.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Bornstein  
Federal On-Scene-Coordinator

cc: Linda Wandres, ORC  
Terry Brubaker, ERS  
Sadie Hoskie, Director, Navajo EPA